

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A Braille input device, comprising:

a plurality of dot keys for inputting dot information for forming Braille characters; and
at least one function key positioned in close proximity to a preselected dot key of said plurality of dot keys.

[Claim 2] The Braille input device of claim 1, further comprising:

said at least one function key positioned adjacent and above said preselected dot key
to facilitate location of said at least one function key.

[Claim 3] The Braille input device of claim 1, further comprising:

said plurality of dot keys including eight keys;
said eight keys being grouped into a left-hand group of four keys and a right-hand
group of four keys.

[Claim 4] The Braille input device of claim 3, further comprising:

said at least one function key including eight function keys;
each of said eight function keys being positioned adjacent and above an associated dot
key.

[Claim 5] The Braille input device of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one cursor router key disposed in proximity to said plurality of dot keys.

[Claim 6] The Braille input device of claim 3, further comprising:

said at least one cursor router key being disposed between said left-hand group of four
keys and said right-hand group of four keys.

[Claim 7] A Braille input device, comprising:

a plurality of dot keys for inputting dot information for forming Braille characters;
a Braille display including a plurality of Braille cells positioned in a row; and
at least one function key positioned in close proximity to a preselected dot key of said
plurality of dot keys.

[Claim 8] The Braille input device of claim 7, further comprising:

said at least one function key positioned adjacent and above said preselected dot key
to facilitate location of said at least one function key.

[Claim 9] The Braille input device of claim 7, further comprising:

said plurality of dot keys including eight keys;
said eight keys being grouped into a left-hand group of four keys and a right-hand
group of four keys.

[Claim 10] The Braille input device of claim 9, further comprising:

said at least one function key including eight function keys;
each of said eight function keys being positioned adjacent and above an associated dot key.

[Claim 11] The Braille input device of claim 9, further comprising:
at least one cursor router key disposed in proximity to said plurality of dot keys.

[Claim 12] The Braille input device of claim 11, further comprising:
said at least one cursor router key being disposed between said left-hand group of four keys and said right-hand group of four keys.